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California Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast Region John W. Corbett, Chairman

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**Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor

June 7, 2007

Russian River Watershed Protection Committee
c/o Ms. Brenda Adelman, Chairperson
Post Office Box 501
Guerneville, CA 95446

Dear Committee Members:

Subject: CEQA Scoping for the Low Threat Discharge Amendment to the Basin Plan
File: Low Threat Discharge Amendment

Thank you for your comment letters, dated April and May 2007, on the proposed Low Threat Discharge Amendment. Regional Water Board staff received over 200 letters from your committee members on this issue. Each of your letters asked for inclusion on the Regional Water Board's mailing list for this issue and asked for acknowledgement of receipt of the letter. This responds, posted on the Regional Water Board website, serves as that acknowledgement.

RRWPC Scoping Comments

Each letter outlines the following concerns from Russian River Watershed Protection Committee RRWPC members.

- In summer the creeks are slow and low and cannot assimilate wastewater discharges. Because this is the time of greatest recreational use and greatest vulnerability to toxins of all kinds, no runoff of any kind should be allowed. The summer discharge prohibition has been in effect since the late 1970's and should continue indefinitely.
- Many people use pesticides on their lawns, which have estrogenic properties and can cause neurological, developmental, reproductive, and cancer causing health problems for humans and wildlife. Irrigation runoff should not be allowed at all on sites where chemicals are used or biosolids applied.
- The Laguna is listed as impaired for nitrogen, phosphorus, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and sediment. Runoff will cause nutrient rich waters to enter the Laguna and further impair its water quality. This in turn also exacerbates Ludwigia growth, the exotic plant wrecking havoc in the Laguna area.
- The cumulative impacts of numerous runoff events can be devastating to the Laguna waterways and downstream beneficial recreation use. Please address these issues.

We appreciate the RRWPC member's interest in this proposed Basin Plan Amendment. All comments received during the CEQA Scoping process will be considered by staff during the preparation of the Basin Plan Amendment language and associated documents over the next few months.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Recycled Paper

Tentative Schedule for the Amendment

Regional Water Board staff has drafted a tentative schedule for the proposed amendment. Please note that each amendment must go through a basin planning process which is somewhat complex and, therefore there is a possibility the schedule may be extended slightly.

- Summer 2007: Scientific peer review and economic review of the draft amendment
- November 2007: Draft amendment and staff report released to the public.
- December 2007: Publicly noticed workshop will be held to accept comments on the draft documents.
- January - March 2008: Publicly noticed 45-day comment period.
- March 2008: Board will consider adoption of the Amendment at a public adoption hearing.

Additional Information on the Proposed Amendment

Regular updates on this proposed amendment, as well as all associated documents (including a copy of this letter), can be viewed or downloaded from the Regional Water Board's website at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/programs/basinplan/psp.html>

Sincerely,

Lauren Clyde
Sanitary Engineering Associate